

# WATCH FOR BARGAINS IN OUR ADVERTISING COLUMNS

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### GAS METERS.

Sheepskins Play a Leading Role in the Work of the Registers.

Consumers of gas are usually so unacquainted with the operation of a gas meter, simple as it is, that it will be surprising to many to learn that sheepskins play an important part in the meter's work. It is used, according to Gas Eagle, in connection with the diaphragm, or the two bellows from which the gas is drawn when the gas is lighted.

A flock of 40,000 sheep is required each year to repair the gas meters used in Manhattan and Bronx boroughs, New York city. These skins cost about \$40,000 a year. To repair the meters used throughout the United States in a single year about 300,000 sheep are required. Great care has to be taken in the selection of perfect skins before they are put into use.

Each pet, before it is accepted, is examined in a dark closet by a man who passes it over a table in which there is a hole about four inches square, through which a light is thrown upward. By this means it can quickly be determined whether or not the sheep whose skin is being examined has ever had experience in bramble bushes. This places, made by pricking of the brambles or by the skin having been injured in the dressing process, render it unfit for use in a meter.

### MIDDLE NAMES.

In England at One Time People Were Hanged For Having Them.

People have not always been allowed the pleasure of having as many names as they wish. Indeed, 400 years ago not even a middle name was allowed in England. It was illegal. The old English law was definite and admitted of no infraction of its ruling.

The only exception made to this iron-clad regulation was in the case of persons of royal rank. If they really wished it they could have a middle name, but was to the person of ordinary rank who was sufficiently unwise or obstinate to insist on having more than two appellations.

For the first offense he would very likely be tied to a whipping post and severely flogged. For a second offense he would endure some more lasting punishment, perhaps the removal of his thumbs or his ears. And if he still persisted in his stubbornness he would be hanged.

There is a case on record of a poor man, in all probability half demented, who insisted on signing four names every time he wrote his signature to any paper. Of course he passed through all the legal stages of punishment until he was finally hanged.—Chicago Tribune.

### Mother of Invention.

John and Mary married impetuously on \$30 a week and went to live in a "walk up" apartment, two flights up. Then baby came and, besides adding to the family, added to the impetuosity. Ingenuity went far toward solving the problem of living for two in an inexpensive place. Baby strained the ingenuity further. At first it was no impossible task to carry him upstairs, but he grew, as babies will, and Mary's back became weary daily as she carried him up.

What was to be done? Oh, for an elevator!

The dumb waiter? Of course! Thereafter, when Mary and baby came in, baby was put in the dumb waiter. Then Mary walked upstairs and hoisted baby. Baby liked it, Mary liked it, and if you don't like it that doesn't matter.—New York Post.

### Changes of Climate.

A scientist who recently investigated the causes of secular variations in temperature at the earth's surface thinks that they are more probably due to changes in the amount of carbonic acid in the atmosphere than to variations in the heat of the sun. If the amount of carbonic acid that the air now contains was diminished a little more than half the mean temperature all over the earth would, it is stated, drop about eight degrees, which would be sufficient to bring on another glacial period. On the other hand, an increase of carbonic acid between two and three times its present amount would raise the mean temperature fifteen degrees and renew the hot times of the eocene epoch.—Boston Post.

### She Knew Without His Asking.

Tramp—It is needless to ask the question, mmm; you know what I want. Mrs. Workhard—Oh, yes, I know what you want; but I've only got one piece of soap in the house, and we're using it. Come again tomorrow.—London Stray Stories.

### Advice.

"My cup of joy is very full," sings a poet. Well, let it be, gentle one. Don't try to change places with the cup.—New Orleans Playhouse.

### BRIGHT OUTLOOK SOUTH.

Plenty of Room For Thrifty Workers.

Jackson, Miss.—Mississippi is full of opportunities for the young colored American despite the much talked of race prejudice. Many of them are taking advantage of the opportunities and pushing to the front and are being heard from in various walks of life.

Perhaps it would be a source of inspiration to the public and especially the young people from time to time to hear something about those who are forging to the front. In the pulpits many strong men are taking the places of the men who are growing less active. Then the medical, law, dental and other professions are claiming the attention of both men and women.

In the pulpits one of the strongest men is the Rev. J. W. Hair, D. D., pastor of the Pearl Street A. M. E. church in this city. In this he is serving his fifth year and is one of the leaders in the educational work. He was born in Sumter county, Ala., about thirty-nine years ago of slave parents. His father, Ned Hair, was a politician of wide influence during the reconstruction period.

The Rev. Mr. Hair became active as a Christian worker at the age of fifteen, superintendent of the Sunday school at the age of sixteen and was licensed to exhort in 1875, district superintendent of Sunday schools, Vicksburg district, A. M. E. church, 1887-8; local preacher in 1888, admitted to the annual conference on trial at Vicksburg in 1889 by Bishop W. R. Derrick, entered the itinerant ministry at Yazoo City in 1891 and was assigned to the Indianola mission with five members and no church.

Here he demonstrated the fact of his ability as a leader and an organizer of men. Within nine months' time he had increased the membership from five to twelve and built a church worth \$2,500. At this place the conference allowed him to remain for five years, in which time he raised the church from a mission to a full-fledged church, leaving it clear of debt and with one of the most refined and cultured congregations in the state.

He was ordained deacon by Bishop E. Tyree in 1902 and elder in 1903. His second charge was in Yazoo City. He served this charge one year and broke all previous records. At this place he again showed wise and safe leadership. Amidst confusion and discord he conducted a successful revival and added eighty-four members to the church and paid a \$600 debt and reported \$120 of what is known as dollar money. Rev. Mr. Hair was appointed to his present charge by the late Bishop E. W. Lupton three years ago. He has reduced the church debt from \$47,000 to less than \$1,700. He is much interested in all that makes for race advancement.

He is one of the pioneer members of the Woodmen of Union and is now the supreme secretary of that fraternity. He is the supreme governor of the Fishermen of the Red Cross Relief society, which is having a wonderful growth under him as its supreme head. He is a broad, generous and just. He has a devoted and loving wife and four children. He also possesses a little of the world's goods. He is destined to be a great leader in the councils of his church and race.

### TASK FOR SUPREME COURT.

Mississippi Jim Crow Car Muddle Up For Final Settlement.

Whether the "jimcrow" car laws of a state apply to interstate passengers as well as to interstate travel is being tried out in the supreme court of the United States on an appeal brought up from the supreme court of the state of Mississippi by Miss Pearl Morris, a white woman, who has been awarded \$2,000 damages by the supreme court of Mississippi for being compelled by a railroad company to occupy a Pullman coach in which three Negroes were traveling.

The case is being watched with deep interest. A decision for Miss Morris may mean that the Pullman company must provide special sleepers for the colored people. If the plaintiff is not sustained colored Pullman passengers will ride through Mississippi without let or hindrance and an antiquated issue will have reached a happy settlement.

### Not a Mind Reader.

Mistress (whose chauffeur has just informed her that Fido has been shut up in the stable because he leaped up at a strange lady in the road)—How odd of him! Do you suppose he thought it was me? Chauffeur—Couldn't say what he thought, my lady.—London Punch.

### As He Diagnosed It.

"I fear you do not really love me," said the young doctor.

"Why do you say that?" demanded the girl.

"Your pulse does not seem to accelerate any when I hold your hand."—Washington Herald.

Age does not make us childish, as some say. If Fido was the only child.

### TEST YOUR BAROMETER.

It is a Tricky Instrument and Must Be Treated With Respect.

Don't expect a barometer to tell you the truth about the weather until you have tested it thoroughly. Two common causes for unreliability are air and water mixed with the mercury in the tube. These can be expelled by boiling the mercury.

In order to test a barometer let it hang for a time in the proper position, then gently and with care incline it so that the mercury may strike against the glass tube. If there is no air with it you will hear a sharp metallic click, but if the sound is dull and muffled it indicates the presence of both air and moisture. The presence of air alone is shown by minute bubbles.

If at any time the mercury seems to adhere to the tube even in the slightest degree and the convex surface assumes a more flattened form it is safe to conclude that either air or moisture is present. In any of these cases the instrument should be put into expert hands for rectification.

There are several kinds of barometers. The ordinary "weather glass" in common use is more or less unreliable and is easily made more so by careless handling. In fact, any barometer must be treated with great respect in order to retain its usefulness.—Harper's Weekly.

### CHURCHES IN CHILE.

They Are Always More or Less in an Uncompleted Condition.

When walking through the streets in any large town in Chile one is immediately struck by the fact that church buildings are always undergoing repairs.

One day you will pass a church which for weeks has had about six ladders resting against the walls. Then another day you will find that they have been changed to the other side. This constant changing of ladders goes on year in and year out, but never seems to be made of the ladders, though, perhaps, a new brick or a bit of plaster will occasionally be added to the building.

There would seem, however, to be a very real reason for the presence of these ladders. The Chilean government, in fact, levies a tax upon church buildings, but only when they have been completed. In order to evade this tax, therefore, no church ever has been completed.

The law surely might be altered, then, for the eternal presence of these ladders—certainly an ingenious idea—does not add to the appearance of the buildings or to the comfort of pedestrians in the streets.—London Answers.

### King Robert Bruce's Watch.

In Dalzell's "Fragments of Scottish History" is the following: "The oldest known English watch was made, it is said, in the sixteenth century. There exists a watch which, antiquarians allow, belonged to King Robert Bruce."

In tracing this subject further was found a letter in the Gentleman's Magazine dated Forfar, Aug. 20, 1785, and signed J. Jamieson, who therein states that the watch was offered for sale to him by a goldsmith hawker of Glasgow, who afterwards sold it for 2 guineas, and it was next sold for 5 guineas. The letter does not trace the watch further, but we find in a little work by Adam Thomson, entitled "Time and Timekeepers," that it subsequently found its way into the collection of King George III.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

### "Pail Mail."

Even the British, the London British, are not agreed upon the proper pronunciation of "Pail Mail." The Pail Mail Gazette has published scores of letters on the subject, one from J. Henderson Couter, being in part as follows: "I really don't seem to matter much whether Pail Mail used to be 'Pail Mail' or 'Paw Mail.' Both are probably incorrect etymologically. I had an old grandmother, one of the old school. Were she alive today she would be about 110. She always spoke of it as 'Pail Mail.' But, then, she preserved most of the old-fashioned pronunciations, such as 'haylock' for 'hallow,' 'obledge' for 'oblige,' 'saffingers' for 'sages' and 'gould' for 'gold.' This may have been, and probably was, a sheer affectation on her part. Anyhow, she tested a new manservant by hearing how he could knock on a front door."

### Wanted It All.

"Darling," he murmured as soon as they had been seated in the high priced restaurant, "you can have anything you want on the bill of fare. Shall I read it off to you?"

"No," replied the dear girl; "just read it to the waiter."—Milwaukee Daily News.

### The Proper Thing to Do.

He (at masquerade ball)—That's a singular looking costume you're wearing. What do you represent? She—Opportunity. He—Indeed! Then let me embrace you.—Boston Transcript.

### CURIOUS MANX LAWS.

Food and Drink Alone Are Taxed and Debtors Are Imprisoned.

In some respects the Isle of Man is one of the most backward portions of the British empire. All the revenue is raised by taxes on food and drink. There are no death duties, no property tax, no land tax. The working classes are unprotected as well as overtaxed. No factory laws exist, and no attempt has ever been made to limit the hours of shop assistants, although Manxland is essentially a nation of shopkeepers. Then, although slavery is forbidden by law, imprisonment for debt is still legal and is commonly resorted to.

Yet Manx laws, although backward in some respects, are in other ways well advanced. Every woman, widow or spinster, in the Isle of Man, be she washer, scrubber or baker, enjoys the parliamentary franchise. Every widow enjoys half her husband's personal estate and has a life interest in his real estate, and she cannot be deprived of this by will.

The sale of cigarettes and intoxicants to children was forbidden in Manx for years before such a prohibition was enforced in England. Englishmen have legislated mildly against money lenders. The highest interest that can be charged in the island is 6 per cent, and that has been the law for over 200 years.—Chicago News.

### LUXURIOUS KITCHENS.

They Used Silver Lined Saucepans in the Old Days in Rome.

While the housewife today prides herself, and with reason, on the equipment and conveniences of her establishment, she need not think that centuries ago other women in other lands were much more luxuriously fitted out than are most kitchens today.

Now in the days when the Roman empire was at its height, if you went into the culinary department of an elegant establishment you would find saucepans lined with silver and pans of various description richly fitted with arabesques in silver and shovels that were handsomely and intricately carved. Egg frames, too, that would cook twenty eggs at once and pastry molds shaped like shells and an infinite assortment of griddles, frying pans, cheese graters and tart dishes.

The toilet tables of the Roman women were well supplied in the same lavish fashion. Ivory combs, perfumes, cosmetics, hairpins, even an elaborate hair net of gold, have been recently unearthed. Safety pins, too, which have for a long time been considered a strictly modern invention, could be found on their tables. But they had no brushes nor any glass mirror, the kind they used being of silver or other white metals.—Chicago Tribune.

### The Greater Attraction.

A correspondent of the Boston Transcript says that "in looking over some memoranda made by John Whitler of East Haverhill (father of the poet) I find this item, made under date of Feb. 13, 1819: 'First snowstorm of the year.' This is possibly the storm his son commemorates in 'Snowbound.' The lad was then in his twelfth year. The item immediately preceding the one I give above is dated May 9, 1819: 'An elephant came to town.' As President Monroe came to town that same day, it is odd that his coming is not also chronicled as equally memorable."

### He Knew.

"You say that a straight line is not the shortest distance between two points?" exclaimed the grouch. "Why, you must be an idiot."

"No, I'm not," replied the stranger. "I'm a taxi driver."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### Sounds Plausible.

"Pop, why does the moon get full?" "I don't know. Don't bother me."

"Pop, I guess if the moon would only stick to the Milky way it wouldn't get full, would it?"—Lippincott's.

Nothing of worth or weight can be achieved with half a mind, with a faint heart and with a lame endeavor.—Isaac Barrow.

Specialist in Rural Education Work. Professor Harold W. Fought, an employee of the United States bureau of education, is making encouraging head way in his work for rural schools and teachers of such schools in the middle west. He is the author of several interesting books on rural education. Professor Fought is regarded as a specialist in his line.

City Secretary For Y. W. C. A. Work. Miss Eva Bowles, former secretary of the Young Women's Christian association in New York, has been appointed as the general secretary for city work among A. W. American women. Miss Bowles belongs to the work.

### GENIUS OF A PAINTER.

Da Vinci's Prayer and Triumph of Art While Still a Pupil.

It is told of Leonardo da Vinci that while still a pupil, before his genius burst into brilliancy, he received a special inspiration in this way.

His old and famous master Jacopo, of his growing inclinations of age felt obliged to give up his own work and one day took Da Vinci aside for him a picture which he had begun. The young man had such reverence for his master's skill that he shrunk from the task. The old artist, however, would not accept any excuse, but persisted in his command, saying simply, "Do your best."

Da Vinci at last tremblingly seized the brush and, kneeling before the easel, said the following prayer: "It is for the sake of my beloved master that I implore skill and power for this undertaking." As he proceeded his hand grew steady, his eye awake with shimmering genius. He forgot himself and was filled with enthusiasm for his work.

When the painting was finished the old master was carried into the studio to pass judgment on the result. His eyes rested on a triumph of art. Throwing his arms around the young artist, he exclaimed, "My son, I point no more!"

### KADIAK ISLAND BEARS.

White and Furry, They Are Monsters in Size and Weight.

The biggest bears in the world are to be found on Kodiak Island, in the Gulf of Alaska, south of the great shoulder of territory that stretches out into the Pacific. The Kodiak bears are of the polar breed, perfectly white, with long, heavy fur, and at full growth are twice as large as the black bear of the Rocky mountains. They weigh 2,000 to 3,000 pounds, stand as high as an ordinary cow and are the biggest carnivorous animals living. The tracks they leave in the snow have been measured at ten inches in length and ten inches in width. They are savage and fight desperately when attacked.

Bear traps are usually baited with honey, but the Kodiak trappers use a pig. Bears are uncommonly fond of pork, and a pig when imprisoned in a trap makes a demonstration which attracts the attention of the bears at a longer distance than the odor of honey.

Kodiak is wooded and mountainous, but it has good natural harbors. There is a population of some 1,500, mostly Eskimos, living on the coast and engaged in the salmon fishing industry.—Chicago Tribune.

### Savage Angel Fish.

Many fishes, like the knights of old, fight among themselves for the love of fighting or because they have nothing better to do, according to a bulletin of the New York Zoological society. There are others, however, which fight to protect themselves or their young. Speaking of the fights among fishes in the aquarium, the bulletin says: "The angel fishes, beautiful as they are in appearance, have perhaps the most devilish disposition of all. A tank of angel fishes reminds one of the notorious, even tempered family who were all mad and all the time." The watchfulness of attendants usually prevents the fatal result of these misunderstandings, but occasionally a fatal injury is inflicted. "Such a case," the bulletin adds, "happened when two large green morays engaged in a violent encounter, during which one of the combatants was disemboweled and had to be killed. These eel-like fishes are extremely powerful and active and strike like snakes."—New York Tribune.

### Art Tamed the Tigers.

A privileged few may have seen the interesting sight of a sculptor making his studies and models from life for the statues of the two tigers which guard the entrance to Nassau hall at Princeton. The studies were made for the most part in the animal houses near the Arsenal in Central park. At first considerable prodding by the keepers was necessary to induce the zoological samples to come forward when the sculptor wanted them. After a time, however, this is upon the sculptor's solemn word—the beasts got so

### First Use of the Monocle.

The monocle, usually associated with the sterner although perhaps not less vain sex, has been worn for a hundred years. The first person to screw a glass in his eye was, according to Sir Horace Rumbold, a Dutch exquisite, Jonathan Breele, whose monocle started the diplomats assembled for the congress of Vienna. The fashion spread rapidly. In Dr. Kitchiner's "Economy of the Eyes," published nine years after the congress, he deprecates the fact that a "single glass set in a smart ring is often used by trifling faddlers merely for fashion's sake. These folk have not the least defect in their sight and are not aware of the mischievous consequences of such irritation."—New York Tribune.

### A New Experience.

"Dropped a little at roulette while I was abroad," remarked the loafer. "Can't beat that game," said the cool man.

"Wasn't trying to. I just wanted to see how it feels to lose money."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Where It Was.

"Why don't you get some labels on your suit case to show where it's been?"

"The pawnbrokers don't furnish labels."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Long and Short of It.

It is hard for a man to look digni-

ty when he is out of his element.